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SOUTH CAROLINA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT 1987-1988

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South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department



JOE S. DUSENBURY, Commissioner

1410 Boston Avenue • Post Office Box 15 • West Columbia, South Carolina 29171-0015

September 1, 1988

The Honorable Carroll A. Campbell Jr.
Governor
State of South Carolina
State House
Post Office Box 11369
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Governor Campbell:

On behalf of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, in compliance with the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976 as amended, I hereby submit to the General Assembly, through you, the department's annual report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1988.

Calculations completed by the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, using the most recent figures gathered by the Rehabilitation Services Administration in Washington, D.C., show that the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department once again ranked number one in the country in the number of persons with disabilities rehabilitated and now working per 100,000 population and in the number of clients served per 100,000 population.

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department served 43,254 individuals with disabilities and rehabilitated 8,605 individuals with disabilities into gainful employment during fiscal year 1987-1988. Interestingly enough, the percentage of those closed cases involving individuals with severe disabilities (individuals with a disability or combination of disabilities which severely limit their ability to function in their employment and personal lives) also continued to rise -- becoming 64 percent.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department continued to work to improve the programs it offers -- in an effort to reach a broader group of persons with disabilities which affect employment. For example, a large number of persons with orthopedic injuries or conditions (many of which were received on the job and covered by Workers' Compensation) can now benefit from the department's new Muscular Development Center. From this center, which opened in February, the department offers physical, recreational and exercise therapies.

We are proud of our staff's work and of our success in helping South Carolinians with severe disabilities become self-sufficient and gainfully employed.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe S. Dusenbury
Commissioner

JSD:mbh
Enclosure

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III. Key Staff Members

A. Executive Staff

Joe S. Dusenbury.....Commissioner
Preston H. Coleman.....Assistant Commissioner,
Administrative Services
P. Charles LaRosa Jr.....Assistant to the Commissioner,
Special Services

B. State Office Staff

Lamar P. Brown.....Director, Supply and Services
Larry C. Bryant.....Regional Supervisor
Durham E. Carter.....Special Assistant for Client
Relations
Wilber M. Corder.....Director, Procurement Services
Thomas K. Curtis.....Director, Accounting
Daniel R. Eckstrom.....Attorney
Allen T. Gantt Jr.....Director, Personnel
Thomas C. Hadwin.....Supervisor, Program Audits
Larry M. Harrelson.....Regional Supervisor
Mary Beth M. Hill.....Assistant Director, Public
Information
Peter B. Howell.....Director, Program Evaluation
Paul G. Knight, Ed.D.....Supervisor, Client Services
Anthony J. Langton Jr....Project Director, Rehabilita-
tion Engineering Grant
William D. Leitner.....Director, Property and
Transportation Management
David C. Lever.....Supervisor, Comprehensive
Programs
John H. Lockman.....Manager, Data Processing
Edward H. McMillion.....Director, Staff Development
and Training
Joseph N. Morris.....Manager, Internal Audits
Vincent Rhodes Jr.....Supervisor, Client Services
Raynold Stoudemayer.....Regional Supervisor
Richard A. Vandiver.....Director, Disability
Determination Division

C. Other Supervisory Offices and Staff

Aiken:

Area VR Office
Raymond W. Mizell
855 York Street, N.E.

Anderson:

Area VR Office
Robert E. Pettigrew
3001 Mall Road

Patrick B. Harris Psychia-
tric Hospital
Roger L. Pedrick
U.S. #76 at Road #100

Bennettsville:

Area VR Office
Larry M. McAlister
Windsor Park Shopping
Center

Camden:

Area VR Office
Roy E. Burbage
1111 Broad Street

Charleston:

Area VR Office
W.B. Creel
4360 Dorchester Road

DDD Regional Office
Michael H. Lussier
209 Fairfield Park, Hwy #7
1064 Gardner Road

Medical University Hospital
Facilities

G. David Smoak
Medical University of South
Carolina
171 Ashley Avenue

Columbia:

Area VR Office
H. Wehman Sieling
1330 Boston Avenue
West Columbia

DDD Regional Office
James S. Howie Jr.
Suite 300
3600 Forest Drive

G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric
Hospital
Frank V. Grobusky
220 Faison Drive

Morris Village Alcohol and
Drug Addiction Center
Frank V. Grobusky
610 Faison Drive

State Hospital Rehabilita-
tion Facility
Frederick C. Jones
Babcock Building
2100 Bull Street

William S. Hall Psychiatric
Institute
Frederick C. Jones
2414 Bull Street

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Frank V. Grobusky
610 Faison Drive

State Hospital Rehabilita-
tion Facility
Frederick C. Jones
Babcock Building
2100 Bull Street

William S. Hall Psychiatric
Institute
Frederick C. Jones
2414 Bull Street

Youth Services Facility
Wayne M. Blake
Birchwood Campus
5000 Broad River Road

Conway:

Area VR Office
John C. Winn
3009 4th Avenue

Florence:

Area VR Office
B. Keith Floyd
W. Darlington Street at
Jody

Palmetto Center
Robert L. Stevens
Route 2, Stokes Road

Greenville:

Area VR Office
O.D. Parker
105 Parkins Mill Road

DDD Regional Office
Paul M. Kelly
Suite 208
300 University Ridge

Holmesview Center
Joe E. Aiken
Route 8
Old Easley Bridge Road

Greenwood:

Area VR Office
Ralph E. Bozard
2345 Laurens Highway

Lancaster:

Area VR Office
Johnny Dewese
Roddey Drive

Laurens:

Area VR Office
Charles M. Wilson
Laurens-Clinton Highway #76
Clinton

Orangeburg:

Area VR Office
John A. Lybrand
780 Joe S. Jeffords High-
way, S.E.

Rock Hill:

Area VR Office
W. David Smith Jr.
1020 Heckle Boulevard

Spartanburg:

Area VR Office
C. Martin Isetts
353 South Church Street

Sumter:

Area VR Office
Emmett W. Tolson Jr.
1760 North Main Street

Walterboro:

Area VR Office
William B. Rogers
Industrial Park
521 Recold Road

West Columbia:

Automotive Mechanics
Training Facility
David C. Lever
Boston Avenue

Comprehensive Rehabilita-
tion Center
Jack B. Herndon
1400 Boston Avenue

Computer Training Program
James L. Washam
1410-A Boston Avenue

Independent Living Program
David C. Lever
1410-C Boston Avenue

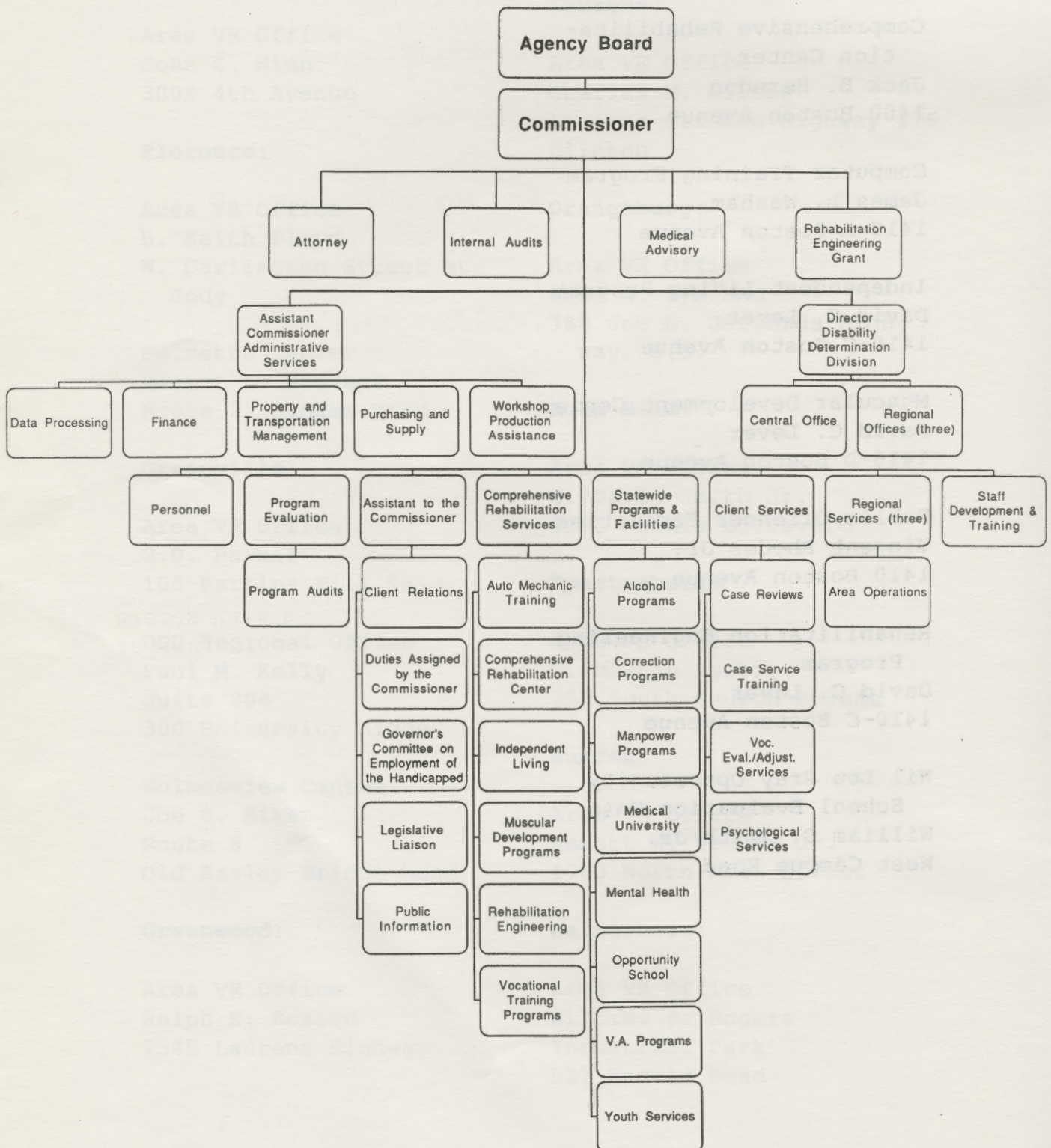
Muscular Development Center
David C. Lever
1410-D Boston Avenue

Public Offender Facilities
Vincent Rhodes Jr.
1410 Boston Avenue

Rehabilitation Engineering
Program
David C. Lever
1410-C Boston Avenue

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity
School Evaluation Unit
William C. Smith Jr.
West Campus Road

IV. Management Organizational Chart



V. Internal Changes

Changes in legislation mandating service additions, coupled with normal growth patterns worked together to provide a need for the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department to reorganize.

This reorganization began on January 1, 1988 and should provide for a more effective and efficient delivery of services.

The reader can find changes in the management structure reflected on page eight of this annual report.

Also, during this fiscal year, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department changed the designation of its Camden Office to that of an Area Office.

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department opened two new buildings, in Anderson and Laurens, during fiscal year 1987-1988.

The department added a Rehabilitation Engineering Program in July of 1987.

In February of 1988, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department opened the Muscular Development Center, an ultra-modern 16,500-square-foot facility which offers physical, recreational and exercise therapies to clients with severe physical disabilities. Skilled professionals administer these therapies using state-of-the-art equipment.

VI. The South Carolina State Agency of Vocational Rehabilitation

The South Carolina State Agency of Vocational Rehabilitation sets policy under which the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department operates.

The seven members, appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate, serve seven year terms.

Each member represents one congressional district. And, there is also one member-at-large.

E. Roy Stone Jr., Greenville
fourth congressional district
chairman

H.L. Laffitte, M.D., Allendale
member-at-large
vice chairman

Joe S. Dusenbury, Columbia
commissioner, SCVRD
secretary

T. James Bell Jr., M.D., Hartsville
sixth congressional district

Floyd Breeland, Charleston
first congressional district

Harry W. Findley, Anderson
third congressional district

John A. Montgomery, Columbia
second congressional district

J. Hewlette Wasson, Laurens
fifth congressional district

VII. History

1920

World War I created a need for a program to return a large population of disabled veterans to gainful employment.

In 1920 President Woodrow Wilson signed into law the Smith-Fess Act making available financial aid to all states - aid to help them develop programs of guidance, training and placement for people whose physical disabilities made them vocationally handicapped.

1927

However, such a rehabilitation program did not start in South Carolina until 1927, when the South Carolina General Assembly authorized the State Superintendent of Education to accept the federal funds available for vocational rehabilitation and to create the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the South Carolina Department of Education.

With a staff of two people, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation began providing vocational training through vocational schools in Charleston and Greenville and through on-the-job training.

1943

The passage of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1943 drastically changed vocational rehabilitation by extending services to individuals with mental retardation.

The Act also provided that a rehabilitation client could receive any service necessary to realize full employment potential and made federal funds available to provide required medical, surgical and other physical restoration services.

1954

Later, the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1954 improved financing for the program in order to help the states improve their services.

This act also made it possible for a separate commission

to administer South Carolina's vocational rehabilitation program.

1957

The South Carolina General Assembly saw this as an opportunity for vocational rehabilitation to help South Carolinians with disabilities and passed legislation, Act 108, in 1957 to make South Carolina's vocational rehabilitation program a separate state agency with permanent agency status.

The newly created South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department went right to work -- creating a network of local offices to better serve the major population areas in the state and developing a network of referrals.

1960-1972

In 1960, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department established the first area vocational rehabilitation workshop in Greenville.

In later accomplishments, South Carolina became the first state in the nation to set up a rehabilitation facility within a state hospital setting to provide services to the institutionalized mentally ill. It was also one of the first states to work with individuals with mental retardation within institutions.

To better utilize tax dollars, the department began to enter into cooperative agreements with other state agencies and institutions including the Department of Corrections, the South Carolina Department of Education, local school districts and the Medical University of South Carolina.

This cooperative agreement approach has helped ensure a complete service delivery system for South Carolinians. (In fact, as of 1988 fiscal year end, it has enabled more than 254,979 citizens with disabilities to be placed in gainful employment following rehabilitation services.)

1973

In 1973, the department's mission changed when the Vocational Rehabilitation Act, federal legislation which placed emphasis on services for persons with severe disabilities, was passed.

1984

The department continues to work to meet the needs of this group as the 1984 addition of a Computer Training

Program for people with severe disabilities demonstrates.

1987

The department added a Rehabilitation Engineering Program in July of 1987.

The Computer Training Program moved to a new facility which included dormitory space as well as classrooms, etc. for the students.

1988

In February of 1988, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department opened the Muscular Development Center, an ultra-modern 16,500-square-foot facility which offers physical, recreational and exercise therapies to clients with severe physical disabilities. Skilled professionals administer these therapies using state-of-the-art equipment.

Today

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department operates 17 area offices as well as many other programs -- all designed to provide statewide service to people with disabilities.

It operates a network of rehabilitation centers which provide evaluation and personal, social, vocational, and work adjustment services.

It operates joint programs in numerous school districts and institutions of other state agencies.

It operates two residential alcohol rehabilitation centers, Holmesview Center and Palmetto Center, as well as the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Center, a residential center serving people with severe disabilities and located in West Columbia.

And, the agency also administers the Disability Determination Program of the Social Security Act.

VIII. Programs

A. An Overview

Offices of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department across the state provide vocational rehabilitation services to South Carolinians with disabilities. These services help prepare them for and help them find suitable employment.

During fiscal year 1987-1988, as a result of these services, 8,605 South Carolinians with disabilities became employed and were successfully rehabilitated.

Eligibility

Any individual, who has a physical or mental disability which for that individual constitutes or results in a substantial handicap to employment -- but for which there is a reasonable expectation that with vocational rehabilitation services that individual could be employed, is eligible to receive services from the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department.

Evaluation

Once an individual is referred to the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, the vocational rehabilitation counselor arranges a thorough diagnostic evaluation for that individual.

During this thorough diagnostic evaluation, the staff tries to find out just what job related functions the individual can and cannot perform through testing, counseling, work sampling, etc.

Once the staff establishes that the individual is eligible to receive services from the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, the counselor and the individual use the information gathered during the evaluation to develop an individualized written rehabilitation

plan, a program of services tailored specifically for that client.

This individualized written rehabilitation plan outlines specific rehabilitation services needed to reduce, remove or accommodate the client's vocational disability or disabilities. It takes into consideration the client's medical, social, psychological and vocational needs, interests and aptitudes identified by the evaluation.

Counseling and Guidance

The client receives counseling and guidance services within the counselor/client relationship throughout his or her entire rehabilitation process.

Job Placement

All services contribute toward the client's eventual job placement.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department considers no client rehabilitated until he or she begins working on a job suited to his or her vocational capacities and physical abilities.

Additional Services

Some clients may require additional services prior to job placement like adjustment services, extra training, the provision of artificial appliances, transportation or other services.

Adjustment

During the client's participation in rehabilitation services, the client may receive adjustment training, if necessary, -- classes in which the client works to develop social skills, job interviewing skills, job survival skills, coping skills, and good hygiene skills, for example, -- as well as actual work adjustment training in the rehabilitation center to build work tolerance, endurance, work skills, etc.

These services help the client learn to deal with day-to-day situations and problems and the client learns to get along in the community and on the job.

Training

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department may sponsor, when appropriate, some clients' course work or special skills training through vocational schools, trade schools, technical schools, business schools, colleges or universities -- when such course work equips the client with the skills needed to improve his marketability and if the client is unable to obtain assistance through other sources.

Artificial Appliances

If a client needs a wheelchair, limb, brace, hearing aid, or other kind of artificial appliance in order to perform satisfactorily on the job, the department may help provide these artificial appliances.

Transportation

A client may also receive maintenance and/or transportation payments for his or her transportation to services or the local center may provide van service to and from that center.

This helps ensure that the client receives maximum benefits from the other aspects of his or her vocational rehabilitation program.

Other

In addition, the department may help some clients by providing other miscellaneous services.

For instance, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department may help them acquire occupational licenses, tools, equipment or supplies if these services significantly increase their employment or self-employment prospects.

Follow-up

Vocational Rehabilitation provides follow-up services to every client placed in gainful employment.

Follow-up services help ensure not only that the client's rehabilitation is successful but also that both the client and the employer are satisfied.

The client's counselor remains available to the client even after that client begins work in order to assist should any problems arise.

B. Broad Based Programs

Cooperative Statewide Facilities

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department and other state agencies cooperatively operate many programs for South Carolinians with disabilities.

These programs, located across the state, allow the department to reach alcoholics and persons with drug addiction, inmates with disabilities, veterans with disabilities, hospital patients, the institutionalized mentally ill, the institutionalized with mental retardation, and high school and post secondary level students with disabilities.

A list of other state agencies' facilities where the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department operates a cooperative program follows:

G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital, Columbia

Medical University Hospital Facilities, Charleston

Amputee Clinic

Cardio-Vascular Facility

Peripheral Vascular Facility

Psychiatric Rehabilitation Facility

Referral Unit

Speech and Hearing Facility

Morris Village Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center,
Columbia

Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric Hospital, Anderson

Public Offender Facilities

Blue Ridge Pre-Release/Work Release Center,
Greenville

Campbell Work Release Center, Columbia

Coastal Work Release Center, Charleston

MacDougall Youth Correction Center, Ridgeville

Stevenson Correctional Institution, Columbia

Watkins Pre-Release Center, Columbia

Women's Correctional Center, Columbia

Women's Work Center, Columbia

South Carolina Department of Youth Services,
Columbia

South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind,
Spartanburg

South Carolina State Hospital, Columbia

VA Hospital/VR Facility, Charleston

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, West Columbia

William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute, Columbia

Public Schools Program

Through cooperative agreements with the Department of Education and local school districts, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department provides rehabilitation services to students with mental or physical disabilities which affect their ability to work.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department provides the staff to provide vocational rehabilitation services and to direct program operations as well as the staff to perform vocational evaluation studies and hold adjustment classes.

The schools provide space for the programs and certified special education or vocational teachers.

In addition, the vocational rehabilitation counselors help with job placement after the students finish high school and the vocational rehabilitation counselor determines they are ready for the labor market.

At this time all of South Carolina's 92 school districts have some phase or all of the four components a comprehensive program can possess: (1) a vocational rehabilitation counselor in the local vocational rehabilitation area office who serves as a liaison between the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the school district and who handles all the district's referrals, (2) an on site vocational rehabilitation counselor, (3) an evaluation/adjustment specialist, and (4) a work production component or workshop.

There are comprehensive school programs located in the following areas: Abbeville, Batesburg, Camden, Campobello, Columbia, Florence, Gaffney, Graniteville, Greenwood, Irmo,

Lexington, Moncks Corner, Oconee, Orangeburg, Rock Hill, Spring Valley and York.

With or without such comprehensive programs, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department serves all school districts from the area office closest to that district.

In the work production component, businesses and industries enter into contracts with the Vocational Rehabilitation Department. These contracts usually involve production or assembly line type work. In this component the students can then establish good work habits and gain training for the job market — in addition to making money based on the amount of work they produce.

Any student, who meets the general eligibility requirements of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, is eligible.

A program of services is also available for youth out of school. In this program the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department may return these individuals to school, may place them in on-the-job training, or may place them in some specialized vocational training program in keeping with their abilities and interests.

For most participating students, these programs are their first real orientation to success in the world of work.

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income Disability Recipients

Since the beginning of the disability programs, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department has served eligible Social Security Disability beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income Disability recipients.

And, with the help of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, many Social Security disability beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income disability recipients with severe disabilities return to the labor market no longer needing Social Security benefits or Supplemental Security Income payments.

Vocational Rehabilitation Centers

The 16 community-based centers the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department operates allow the department to coordinate, develop and provide comprehensive

rehabilitation services to South Carolinians with disabilities in their own communities.

Each center serves all disability groups and provides vocational assessment as well as personal, social and work adjustment training.

Contract work performed for business and industry provides the real work training experiences which prepare clients with disabilities for competitive employment.

Vocational assessment, provided by the staff at the center, includes intelligence, aptitude, interest and achievement testing with hands-on work sample administration and actual work evaluation. The Vocational Rehabilitation Department uses these methods to identify a client's limitations, assets and employment potential.

The center also provides comprehensive adjustment training which may include personal living skills groups, world of work classes, activities of daily living classes, work adjustment through the utilization of contract activities, academic classes and other services.

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department owns center buildings in Aiken, Anderson, Charleston, Columbia, Conway, Florence, Greenville, Greenwood, Lancaster, Laurens, Orangeburg, Rock Hill, Spartanburg, Sumter and Walterboro.

In 1987 the department began work on two new center buildings one in Bennettsville and one in Beaufort.

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department operates centers in the following locations:

Aiken:
855 York Street, N.E.

Conway:
3009 4th Avenue

Anderson:
3001 Mall Road

Florence:
W. Darlington Street
at Jody

Bennettsville:
Route 4, Highway #9

Greenville:
105 Parkins Mill Road

Charleston:
4360 Dorchester Road

Greenwood:
2345 Laurens Highway

Columbia:
1330 Boston Avenue
West Columbia

Lancaster:
Roddey Drive

Laurens: Spartanburg
Laurens-Clinton Highway #76 353 South Church Street
Clinton

Orangeburg: Sumter:
780 Joe S. Jeffords 1760 N. Main Street
Highway, S.E.

Rock Hill Walterboro:
1020 Heckle Boulevard 521 Recold Road

West Columbia Rehabilitation Complex

Over the past 10 years, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department has added an array of comprehensive services to its West Columbia Rehabilitation Complex.

These programs provide highly specialized services to some of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department's clients with the most severe disabilities. These clients, from across the state, now receive multiple rehabilitation services in one central location.

Such centralization efficiently and effectively makes these sophisticated programs uniformly available to all eligible clients.

Comprehensive Center

The Comprehensive Center is the oldest of the multidisciplinary programs for individuals with severe physical disabilities.

The 18-bed, residential facility offers medical services, occupational therapy, personal and social adjustment, psychological services, speech therapy, and vocational evaluation.

For several years the Comprehensive Center has also operated a highly successful Chronic Pain Program designed for individuals who can no longer work or enjoy daily activities because of their recurring pain.

This Chronic Pain Program is particularly successful with clients covered by Workers' Compensation -- many of who experience pain associated with industrial accidents.

In this program clients learn ways to manage their pain. And, as a direct result of this program, the department returned hundreds of participants to the work force over the years.

During fiscal year 1987-1988, 435 South Carolinians with severe disabilities received services at the Comprehensive Center.

Muscular Development Center

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department opened the Muscular Development Center, the most recently added comprehensive program, in February of 1988.

The ultra-modern 16,500-square-foot facility features a 3,500-square-foot therapeutic pool specifically designed for clients with severe physical disabilities.

In addition to aquatic therapy, this facility offers physical, recreational and exercise therapies -- all administered by skilled professionals utilizing state-of-the-art equipment and evaluation and treatment techniques.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department plans to make the facility available to a larger population with a broader range of disabilities.

In fact, the department believes that this facility will make new vocational rehabilitation services available to unserved or underserved disability groups.

Computer Training Program

The Computer Training Program, which began in 1984, provides training in computer-related business occupations to clients qualified in aptitude and motivation.

The four-year-old project began as an experiment in teaching computer programming to persons with severe physical disabilities.

Because of the program's success during the following years, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department expanded the program in fiscal year 1987-1988 to include other areas of computer-related occupations such as word processing, computer-assisted drafting (CAD), data entry and other automated office occupations. This class, the fourth, graduates in August of 1988.

A Business Advisory Council is one of the primary

reasons for the project's success.

Its membership contains executives from various corporations, government and education organizations who work with the vocational rehabilitation staff in selecting trainees, planning curricula, evaluating trainee progress and placing the students when they complete their training.

Members of the Business Advisory Council also serve as guest lecturers and as members of a speakers' bureau which promotes the program.

Rehabilitation Engineering

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department initiated the Rehabilitation Engineering Program in July of 1987 in response to a 1986 amendment to the federal Vocational Rehabilitation Act which mandated the availability of rehabilitation engineering services to eligible clients.

The program exists to assist the Vocational Rehabilitation Department's counselors by selectively applying engineering skills and technology to help their clients overcome employment barriers related to their disabilities.

In the rehabilitation engineering process, the rehabilitation engineer first identifies the client's need as it relates to his or her ability to perform a required task. Then, the engineer applies the appropriate technology to address that need.

For instance, some clients may need commercially available adaptive aids, custom modified adaptive aids, or even custom designed and fabricated devices in order to perform a required task.

The vocational rehabilitation counselor refers clients to the engineering program for one or more of three primary purposes: job accommodation, health maintenance or home accessibility -- all areas which directly affect a client's employability.

A rehabilitation engineer with a master's degree, a mechanical technician and an administrative specialist currently make up the program's staff.

In addition, the rehabilitation engineering facility houses a mechanical shop complete with fabrication tools.

In fiscal year 1987-1988 rehabilitation engineering served 75 clients.

Independent Living

The Independent Living Program, which completes its ninth successful year in 1988, helps individuals with severe disabilities and limited potential identify basic goals and the various solutions available to meet those needs.

Most of the program's participants have little expectation of engaging in competitive employment.

Thus, the program's primary objective is to help individuals improve the quality of their lives and to become more independent. Often when the program accomplishes this, the individual affected becomes less dependent on a family member or other attendant. In turn, that family member or attendant finds they can return to the work force.

The Independent Living Program also maintains an equipment lending service.

This service allows workers with disabilities and Independent Living Program clients to continue their work and other activities uninterrupted even while their wheelchairs or other assistive equipment undergo repair.

More and more individuals continue to use and benefit from the lending service. And, in fiscal year 1987-1988 Independent Living made 260 loans on pieces of equipment.

Work Activity Centers

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the South Carolina Department of Mental Retardation have, through a cooperative agreement, set up work activity centers to provide services to people with severe mental retardation.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the Department of Mental Retardation jointly operate work activity centers in the following locations:

Conway
Lancaster
Orangeburg
Rock Hill
Walterboro

Under contract, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department operates programs which include evaluation, personal

and social adjustment, work adjustment, and on-the-job training.

The departments set up the program to take individuals with severe mental retardation out of institutions and provide them with the training they need in order to take their places in society -- as independently as possible.

The work activity centers served 167 clients with mental retardation during fiscal year 1987-1988.

Youth Services

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Youth Services, provides rehabilitation services to eligible youth with physical or mental disabilities within the Department of Youth Services Correctional Facilities.

As a result of this agreement, 272 Department of Youth Services students received vocational rehabilitation services while incarcerated in fiscal year 1987-1988.

C. Specific Target Programs

Alcohol and Drug Abuse

During the 1987-1988 fiscal year, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department served 4,072 clients handicapped by alcohol abuse and 2,081 handicapped by drug abuse.

Of these, the department successfully rehabilitated 1,142 alcoholics and 467 drug abusers.

Two treatment centers administered by the Vocational Rehabilitation Department provide in-patient therapy to the substance abuser. Palmetto Center in Florence served 583 residents this past year, while Holmesview Center, located in Greenville, served 324 clients.

Both centers support the referring vocational rehabilitation field counselors who assume responsibility for follow-up services once the client returns home.

The centers, which serve as major treatment resources for employed workers in danger of losing their jobs due to substance abuse problems, provide a much needed service for the employee as well as the employer.

Both Palmetto Center and Holmesview Center conduct Community Training Seminars for local community professionals and lay persons.

Both centers also operate out-patient and family treatment groups.

Vocational rehabilitation counselors and mental health counselors use the Morris Village Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center for clients needing in-patient therapy for the misuse of drugs and alcohol. A vocational rehabilitation unit at the center provides clients with comprehensive vocational assessment and personal and social adjustment training services.

The programs for treatment of alcohol and drug abuse use other community resources such as Alcoholics Anonymous groups and other such organizations to augment their effectiveness.

Cardiac Rehabilitation

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, in cooperation with the South Carolina Medical Association and the American Heart Association, South

Carolina Affiliate Inc., provides specialized vocational rehabilitation services in cardiac rehabilitation programs throughout the state.

The recovering cardiac patient may find it difficult to return to his old job responsibilities after treatment for cardiovascular disease. Or, his old job may not be waiting for him because his employer lacked an understanding of heart disease and the limitations the employee may experience after treatment.

A certified cardiac program must include a vocational rehabilitation counselor to provide services that will enhance the patient/client's ability to return to productive activity. Each vocational rehabilitation counselor who works with the cardiac program has expertise in the effects of cardiac disabilities on employment.

Based on the cardiac patient's vocational profile, as well as the medical recommendation of the cardiac rehabilitation team and the client's referring physician, a prescription for the client's complete rehabilitation is developed.

In addition to providing the usual vocational rehabilitation services, the vocational rehabilitation counselor works with the cardiac patient and helps that patient maintain job stability, identify job opportunities, recognize stress factors on the job, make dietary and lifestyle changes, and even modify behaviors on the job, in recreation and in social situations.

At the present time, the department has cooperative statements of understanding with Cardiac Rehabilitation Units in 15 hospitals. The department is also working with three other hospitals to develop cardiac rehabilitation programs which should become operational within the next year.

During fiscal year 1987-1988, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department served 530 clients who were referred by cardiac rehabilitation programs. Of these, 180 have, thus far, returned to suitable employment as a result of the services provided.

Deaf and Hearing Impaired

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department administers a program for the deaf and hearing impaired which uses specially trained staff members located through-

out the state.

These staff members receive extensive training in communication skills for conversing with deaf persons, as well as training in the audiological, psychological and vocational problems of the hearing impaired.

These staff members include:

State Coordinator for Deaf Services
Counselors
Evaluators/Adjustment Specialists
Production Coordinators
Speech Pathologist
Rehabilitation Aide
Rehabilitation Assistants

Physicians, schools for the physically handicapped, artificial audiological appliance companies, educational institutions, interested individuals, deaf consumers and other human service related programs all referred clients to the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department's program for the deaf and hearing impaired in fiscal year 1987-1988.

Cases accepted for services under the program included the following:

	<u>Served:</u>	<u>Rehabilitated:</u>
Deafness, Pre-lingual	392	59
Deafness, Pre-vocational	47	6
Deafness, Post-vocational	29	4
Hard of Hearing, Pre-lingual	251	47
Hard of Hearing, Pre-vocational	304	74
Hard of Hearing, Post-vocational	<u>450</u>	<u>158</u>
Total	1,473	348

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department operates a facility on the campus of the South Carolina School for the Deaf.

This program continues to work with the deaf students while they attend Cedar Spring School. Once they graduate, the students transfer to their respective home areas and the specialty counselors continue to work with them.

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department continues to work to provide adequate services through local speech and hearing centers throughout the state and within the medical community and to become more involved with the deaf community and their organizations -- thus providing a channel of communication between the Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the hearing impaired population.

During the past year, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department continued its cooperation with the South Carolina School for the Deaf.

This innovative program evaluates vocational needs of students with multiple disabilities and helps maximize their future employment potential based on individual capabilities. These students have two or more disabilities and are served by a specialty staff.

Disabled Public Offenders

In its Public Offender Project, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department provides vocational rehabilitation services to the institutionalized public offenders and ex-offenders with physical or mental disabilities.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department operates this program in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Corrections in order to prepare offenders with disabilities for employment and the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services in work with already released offenders with disabilities.

Last year, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department served 3,340 public offenders and rehabilitated 999.

As needed, the department provides assessment, counseling and guidance, personal and social adjustment, placement and follow-up services.

The South Carolina Department of Corrections now operates seven work centers and two pre-release centers. The Vocational Rehabilitation Department works in most of these centers helping the client get back into the community and providing follow-up services once the client returns to the community.

Since the public offender with a disability receives services while incarcerated and after release, that public offender with a disability receives the reinforcement necessary to enhance his or her successful rehabilitation.

Nine counselors, located in strategic areas of the

state, serve primarily those vocational rehabilitation clients released from various institutions within the correctional setting.

Mental Illness

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department provides services to mentally ill clients referred by other institutional programs and community agencies of the Department of Mental Health and other service providers.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department has developed cooperative programs with the South Carolina Department of Mental Health to serve individuals in the South Carolina State Hospital, William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute, the G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital, Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric Hospital and the community.

During fiscal year 1987-1988, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department served 14,682 people and rehabilitated 3,031 people diagnosed as mentally ill, excluding those with alcoholism, drug addiction and drug abuse.

Mental Retardation

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department also provides services to individuals with mental retardation.

Many of these clients come from the public schools or through the Department of Mental Retardation.

Services include vocational evaluation, adjustment training, job placement, training and follow-up services.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the Department of Mental Retardation also developed Work Activity Centers within the state for those transferred from institutions into community residences.

During fiscal year 1987-1988, the department served 7,333 people with the disability of mental retardation and successfully rehabilitated 1,523.

D. Disability Determination Division

The Disability Determination Division, which operates from regional offices in Charleston, Columbia and Greenville, processes Social Security Disability claims under the provisions of the Social Security Act and the Supplemental Security Income Program.

Individuals receive benefits from these programs when they can no longer work because of a mental or physical disability. And, they receive these benefits only as long as their impairment keeps them from working.

A "team," consisting of a disability examiner and a physician, jointly makes the disability decisions.

These professional personnel are trained in the careful and objective evaluation of medical and vocational factors under the requirements of the Social Security law. It is their responsibility to ensure that sound medical evidence is obtained and that the decision to allow or deny benefits meets all requirements of the Social Security law.

The Disability Hearing Unit, Appeals and State Claims, separately located in Columbia, conducts face-to-face hearings with individuals whose benefits are being terminated, arranges medical examinations for the Office of Hearings and Appeals, and processes South Carolina Retirement System Disability applications and claims connected with the South Carolina Homestead Exemption Act.

During the past fiscal year, the Disability Determination Division processed 53,528 claims for disability benefits.

At the end of 1988, 52,500 disabled workers in the state were receiving approximately \$26 million each month from Social Security and 24,500 auxiliary dependents were receiving approximately \$3 million each month. In addition, some 54,500 disabled and blind people, along with auxiliary dependents, were receiving \$11.6 million in monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments.

In addition to determining disability, the staff also reviews each claim and decides if the individual has potential for vocational rehabilitation.

Because of the large number of disability cases processed, this division is an important source for referrals, referrals of disabled individuals not prepared to go directly into the work force. These individuals then receive services through the Vocational Rehabilitation Department. Many former recipients became employed and no longer receive Social Security Disability benefits.

The total operating expense of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department during fiscal year 1987-1988 was \$23,139,543. Of this amount, the department spent \$49,611,132 or 92.2 percent for "services to individuals".

IX. Expenditures

The "services to individuals" category includes money spent on the counseling and placement of clients (including professional fees, supplies, office expenses, and transportation).

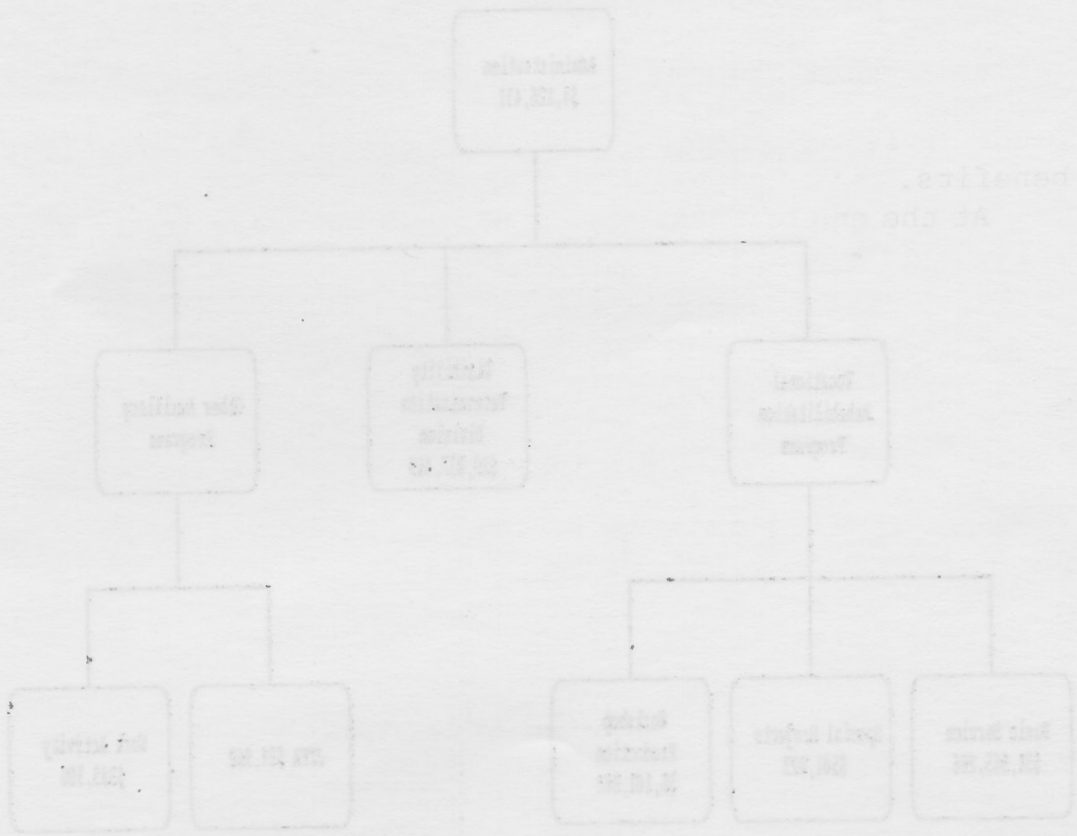
A. The Cost of Rehabilitation

Supporting unemployed disabled persons is a continuous yearly cost.

The average cost for rehabilitation per person last year was \$4,060 - only a fraction of the annual cost per case at many state institutions such as hospitals, prisons and treatment centers.

A number of advisory committees and boards serve as an invaluable resource to the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department in the planning and delivery of services to South Carolinians with disabilities. The department also uses volunteers in other areas such as recreation in residential and other facilities.

Below is a breakdown of expenditures for fiscal year 1987-1988:



B. Annual Expense

The total operating expense of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department during fiscal year 1987-1988 was \$53,139,543.

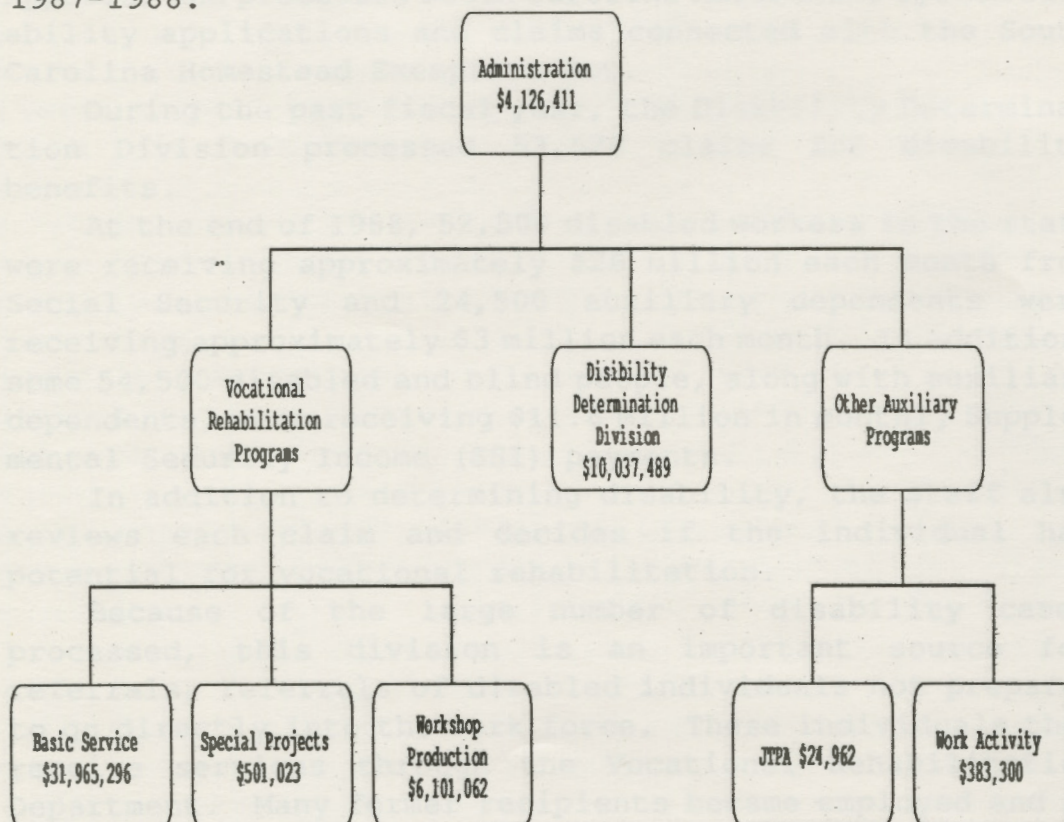
Of this amount, the department spent \$49,013,132 or 92.2 percent for "services to individuals."

The "services to individuals" category includes money spent on the counseling and placement of clients (including professional and clerical salaries), travel expenses, communications, supplies, rent, office maintenance and equipment, diagnostic procedures and surgery, treatment, prosthetic appliances, hospitalization and convalescent care, training, equipment and licenses for clients, and the determinations of disability for SSA recipients.

The department spent the remaining \$4,126,411 or 7.8 percent on administration of the department.

This administration category includes administrative and clerical salaries, travel, communication, supplies, public information, rent, office maintenance, equipment, staff training, and data processing. (The administrative costs this year are slightly elevated due to the purchase of a new mainframe computer during this period.)

Below is a breakdown of expenditures for fiscal year 1987-1988:



X. Changes in Enabling Legislation

During fiscal year 1987-1988, there were no changes in legislation affecting the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department.

XI. Appendices

Appendix A

Characteristics of Rehabilitants

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department successfully rehabilitated 8,605 people during fiscal year 1987-1988.

At the time of referral the following characteristics held true:

80.8 percent were unemployed

13.6 percent were in tax supported institutions

57.9 percent were dependent on family and friends
for their livelihood

45.0 percent had less than a 12th grade education

61.0 percent were male

57.4 percent were white

42.3 percent were black

.003 percent fell into the other racial category

Appendix B

Disabilities

Rehabilitation of people with disabilities pays off as those with disabilities become productive.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department provided services to persons disabled by many different types of physical and mental disabilities.

The rehabilitants served by Vocational Rehabilitation last year had the following disabilities.

<u>Type of Disability</u>	<u>Number of Rehabilitants</u>
Mental Illness	4,640
Mental Retardation	1,523
Orthopedic Deformity	854
Heart and Circulatory Conditions	349
Hearing Impairments	348
Epilepsy and Nervous Disorders	248
Allergy, Endocrine Disorders	192
Visual Impairments	92
Absence of Limbs	64
Digestive System Disorders	42
Genito-Urinary System Disorders	40
Respiratory Diseases	40
Cancer	25
Blood Diseases	23
Speech Impairments	22
Other	103

For More Information

For more information about the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department or vocational rehabilitation services feel free to contact:

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The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department does not discriminate in the delivery of services or in employment.

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department offers equal opportunity in its employment and provision of services without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or mental or physical disability in keeping with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

